

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE – MS. 1

1120 N STREET

P. O. BOX 942873

SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001

PHONE (916) 653-1776

FAX (916) 653-1905

TTY (916) 653-4086

*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

January 31, 2006

TO: DIRECTORS OF ALL PUBLIC AGENCIES IN CALIFORNIA

Dear Director:

This letter is to advise you of the forthcoming change to the bridge design specifications from load factor design (LFD) to *load and resistance factor design (LRFD)*. To facilitate this change, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has established a nationwide goal to implement the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* for design of all new bridges.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is in the process of finalizing its adoption of the new specifications. Caltrans has already begun implementation of *LRFD* for Caltrans designed bridges that utilize the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* as well as the Caltrans amendments to the new specifications. The old LFD specifications are no longer being supported.

Local agency sponsored projects on state and local bridges are required to use Caltrans specifications for bridge structural capacity. Therefore, local agency sponsored projects for new bridges that have preliminary engineering authorized after October 1, 2006, are to be designed using the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* and the appropriate Caltrans amendments to ensure funding eligibility. Updates regarding the Caltrans amendments and implementation of *LRFD* will be available on the Division of Engineering Services web site: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/lrfd/>.

The *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* are available for purchase from AASHTO at: <https://bookstore.transportation.org/>, or you may call: 1 800 231 3475.

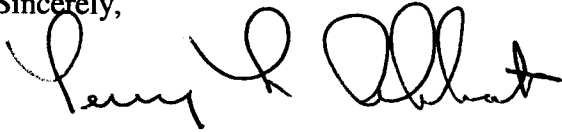
Policies are currently under development for projects that began under the old specifications, but are not yet authorized for construction.

Agencies that publish requests for qualifications, (RFQ) for non-project specific A & E contracts for bridge design, should include the *LRFD* requirement in the RFQ. This would apply to agencies that maintain an on-call list of qualified consultants for bridge design.

Directors of All Public Agencies in California  
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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your District Local Assistance Engineer (DLAE). The contact information for DLAEs can be found at:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/dlae.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Abbott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

TERRY L. ABBOTT  
Chief  
Division of Local Assistance

c: DLAEs